

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

October 8, 2003

Affordable, quality, licensed childcare is a necessity to working parents everywhere. On March 7, 2000, this Board passed a motion requiring the Chief Administrative Office to assess the feasibility of providing childcare services in County facilities and parks. Subsequent to this motion, three childcare centers were built throughout the County with the capacity of serving 180 children of our employees and the public. The First District has taken an active, leadership role in ensuring that employee childcare centers have been considered each time there is a new or remodeled County facility.

Later this year the County will open two-child care centers in El Monte, at 3400 Aerojet Avenue and 9320 Telstar Avenue. These facilities, which primarily house the Department of Public and Social Services' (DPSS) and the Department of Health Services' (DHS) employees, have had difficulty locating a non-profit/governmental entity operator that provides a quality program that is affordable for our employees.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

Therefore, I propose that the Director of DPSS, with the support of DHS, move forward with soliciting and entering into a contract with a qualified vendor to provide childcare services at these two sites. This will open up an additional 108 childcare slots between the two facilities.

In addition, I propose that DPSS work with the neighboring Community Colleges, East Los Angeles and Rio Hondo, to support the childcare centers with students from the Careers and Childcare Program. Careers in Childcare, which was created in 1999, is an innovative and creative child development program that benefits CalWORKs participants as well as addresses the need for qualified childcare providers in Los Angeles County. This partnership would not only afford CalWORKs students the hands-on training experience they need to move forward toward their career goals, but will also permit more reasonable childcare rates for County employees.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Director of DPSS to conduct a competitive solicitation for a qualified contractor to manage and operate the two County - sponsored childcare centers in El Monte; and
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DPSS upon evaluation and selection of a qualified operator, to enter into a non-financial agreement for a three-year period.

The contract shall incorporate the services of CalWORKs students who are participating in the Careers in Childcare Training Program.

LO/jh